Claim 7, line 1, delete "any preceding claim" and insert --claim 1--.

Claim 9, line 1, delete "any one of claim 4-8" and insert --claim 4--.

Claim 10, line 1, delete "any preceding claim" and insert --claim 1--.

Claim 12, line 1, delete "any preceding claim" and insert --claim 1--.

Claim 13, line 1, delete "any preceding claim" and insert --claim 1--.

Claim 15, line 1, delete "or 14".

Claim 16, line 1, delete "any one of claim 1-12" and insert --claim 1--.

Claim 19, line 1, delete "any preceding claim" and insert --claim 1--.

Claim 24, line 1, delete "or 23".

Claim 25, line 1, delete "any one of claim 22-25" and insert --claim 22--.

Claim 26, line 1, delete "any one of claim 22-25" and insert --claim 22--.

Claim 27, line 1, delete "any one of claim 22-26" and insert --claim 22--.

Claim 31, line 1, delete "or 30".

Claim 33, line 1, delete "any one of claim 29-32" and insert --claim 29--.

Claim 34, line 1, delete "any one of claim 29-33" and insert --claim 29--.

Claim 35, line 1, delete "any one of claim 29-34" and insert --claim 29--.

Claim 37, line 1, delete "any one of claim 29-36" and insert --claim 29--.

Cancel claims 38 and 39.

Add new claims 40 to 67.

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40. A method according to claim 8, wherein said polyester comprises lactic acid, glycolic acid and tartaric acid.

41. Biodegradable polymer comprising lactic acid, ϵ-caproic acid, glycolic acid, trimethylene carbonate, p-dioxanone or a copolymer thereof and tartaric acid.

42. Microparticles comprising a biodegradable polymer according to claim 41.

43. Microparticles of a sustained release ionic conjugate comprising the biodegradable polymer according to claim 41 and a drug containing one or more free amino groups, wherein the polymer and drug are ionically bonded.

44. Microparticles according to claim 43 wherein said drug is selected from the group consisting of growth hormone releasing peptide luteinizing hormone-releasing hormone, adrenomedullin, growth hormone, somatostatin, bombesin, gastrin releasing peptide, calcitonin, bradykinin, galanin, melanocyte stimulating hormone, growth hormone releasing factor, amylin,

tachykinins, secretin, parathyroid hormone, enkephalin, endothelin, calcitonin gene releasing peptide, neuromedins, parathyroid hormone related protein, glucagon, neurotensin, adrenocorticotrophic hormone, peptide YY, glucagon releasing peptide, vasoactive intestinal peptide, pituitary adenylated cyclase activating peptide, motilin, substance P, neuropeptide Y and TSH or an analogue or a fragment thereof.

45. Microparticles according to claim 44 wherein said drug is somatostatin or LHRH or an analogue or a fragment thereof.

46. Microparticles according to claim 45 wherein said somatostatin analogue is D-β-Nal-c[Cys-Tyr-D-Trp-Val-Cys]-Thr-Nh_2.

47. The biodegradable polymer according to claim 41 comprising lactic acid glycolic acid and tartaric acid.

48. Microparticles comprising a biodegradable polymer according to claim 47.

49. Microparticles of a sustained release ionic conjugate comprising the biodegradable polymer according to claim 47 and a drug containing one or more free amino groups, wherein the polymer and drug are ionically bonded.

50. Microparticles according to claim 49 wherein said drug is selected from the group consisting of growth hormone releasing peptide, luteinizing hormone-releasing hormone, adrenomedullin, growth hormone, somatostatin, bombesin, gastrin releasing peptide, calcitonin, bradykinin, galanin, melanocyte stimulating hormone, growth hormone releasing factor, amylin, tachykinins, secretin, parathyroid hormone, enkephalin, endothelin, calcitonin gene releasing peptide, neuromedins, parathyroid hormone related protein, glucagon, neurotensin, adrenocorticotrophic hormone, peptide YY, glucagon releasing peptide, vasoactive intestinal peptide, pituitary adenylated cyclase activating peptide, motilin, substance P, neuropeptide Y and TSH or an analogue or a fragment thereof.

51. Microparticles according to claim 50 wherein said drug is somatostatin or LHRH or an analogue or a fragment thereof.

52. Microparticles according to claim 51 wherein said somatostatin analogue is D-β-Nal-c[Cys-Tyr-D-Trp-Val-Cys]-Thr-NH_2.

53. The biodegradable polymer according to claim 47 wherein the ratio of lactic acid to glycolic acid to taratic acid is about 66 to about 33 to about 1, respectively.

55. Microparticles of a sustained release ionic conjugate comprising the biodegradable polymer according to claim 53 and a drug containing one or more free amino groups, wherein the polymer and drug are ionically bonded.

56. Microparticles according to claim 55 wherein said drug is selected from the group consisting of growth hormone releasing peptide, luteinizing hormone-releasing hormone, adrenomedullin, growth hormone, somatostatin, bombesin, gastrin releasing peptide, calcitonin, bradykinin, galanin, melanocyte stimulating hormone, growth hormone releasing factor, amylin, tachykinins, secretin, parathyroid hormone, enkephalin, endothelin, calcitonin gene releasing peptide, neuromedins, parathyroid hormone related protein, glucagon, neurotensin, adrenocorticotrophic hormone, peptide YY, glucagon releasing peptide, vasoactive intestinal peptide, pituitary adenylated cyclase activating peptide, motilin, substance P, neuropeptide Y and TSH or an analogue or a fragment thereof.

57. Microparticles according to claim 56 wherein said drug is somatostatin or LHRH or an analogue or a fragment thereof.

58. Microparticles according to claim 57 wherein said somatostatin analogue is D-β-Nal-c[Cys-Tyr-D-Trp-Val-Cys]-Thr-NH_2.

59. The biodegradable polymer according to claim 47 wherein the ratio of lactic acid to glycolic acid to taratic acid is about 66 to about 32 to about 2, respectively.

60. Microparticles comprising a biodegradable polymer according to claim 59.

61. Microparticles of a sustained release ionic conjugate comprising the biodegradable polymer according to claim 60 and a drug containing one or more free amino groups, wherein the polymer and drug are ionically bonded.

62. Microparticles according to claim 61 wherein said drug is selected from the group consisting of growth hormone releasing peptide, luteinizing hormone-releasing hormone, adrenomedullin, growth hormone, somatostatin, bombesin, gastrin releasing peptide, calcitonin, bradykinin, galanin, melanocyte stimulating hormone, growth hormone releasing factor, amylin, tachykinins, secretin, parathyroid hormone, enkephalin, endothelin, calcitonin gene releasing peptide, neuromedins, parathyroid hormone related protein, glucagon, neurotensin, adrenocorticotrophic hormone, peptide YY, glucagon releasing peptide, vasoactive intestinal peptide, pituitary adenylated cyclase activating peptide, motilin, substance P, neuropeptide Y and TSH or an analogue or a fragment thereof.